
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 30, to read as follows:

--By way of illustration FIGS. 1, 4 and 5 depict an example of a retaining system that includes a retaining plate 60 positioned in each of the associated slots 32 near the distal ends 28 and 30 of the respective teeth 24 and 26, respectively. Each plate 60 includes ends 62 ~~63~~ and 64 spaced apart by elongated side edges 66 and 68. The distance between the side edges 66 and 68 (*e.g.*, its width) is greater than the slot width and may approximate the transverse distance between grooves. The elongated grooves 62 extend longitudinally through each side of the teeth 24, 26 near their respective distal ends 28, 30, which may be coextensive with the length of the teeth between the side edges. The grooves 62 thus are dimensioned and configured to permit insertion of the plates within respective grooves associated with given slots. The plates 60 further have a length that approximates the length of the teeth adjacent positioned in a pair of adjacent grooves 62, such as shown in FIGS. 1 and 6. The plates 60 may be formed of any substantially rigid material, such as stainless steel.--